

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION:

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Thursday, October 3. 1706.

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**I** Am now entred a large Field, or rather an Ocean, in which none ever yet sail'd before me; I am sensible, I launch out with a Storm of Curfes from those People, to whom Union is formidable, and the Name of it odious; I expect to meet with Reproach from the Enemies of this Union: No Assistance in it from even those that will acknowledge it useful, nor Pity even from those that are Friends to it; if in the Attempt I should suffer Shipwreck from the Resentments of any, whom my too keen Truth shall offend.

And thus prepar'd for a troublesome Voyage, I set out but indifferently furnished, to weather and bear out the Tempests that I shall meet with, and perfectly regardless of the Event *as to my self*——I know, I shall not please, and even those that it

shall both please and serve, will not assist the Man against those, it shall aid them against.

I shall encourage my self in the Sincerity of my Design, and the Exactness of my Method; I shall adhere in every thing to Truth of Fact, and must be *left at Liberty* to draw my own Inferences, which any body, that can confute, may be wellcome to; as for those who like the Work, but think the Instrument unfit, and not only *can* but *dare* attempt to perform it better, I'll most willingly submit to it, and lay down, when they begin.

I expect neither to please *English* nor *Scots*, *Whigs* nor *Torys*, *High Church* nor *Low Church*, Court nor People, nor do I pretend to it, *I do not expect it*; because I may perhaps be freer *with all*, than they will like, in telling them their Mistakes; *I don't*

*don't pretend to it*; because he that writes to serve, and writes faithfully, may, like a skilful Surgeon, work the Cure, but will never please the Patient.

I have done with Apologies, Gentlemen, and proceed to the Subject. We have been long talking in *England* of Peace and Union; and God be prais'd, *tho' the Work is far from being compleat*, yet 'tis farther advanced here than our Enemies expected, or than we could reasonably hope for.

Here is now another Union presents it self, of consequence infinitely superior, next to our Liberty, Property, and Peace among one another, to the greatest Event now on the Stage of the World.

'Tis a thing of such Import, so fatal to our Enemies, and of so direct a Tendency to making us invincible and invulnerable; that there can want nothing but a due Sense of the weighty Consequence of it, to make all honest Men not desire it only, but push with all their Might at its speedy Conclusion.

'Tis a melancholly Reflection, that I cannot say every Englishman is fully appriz'd of the mighty Consequence of this Union, and therefore I shall endeavour to search it to the Bottom; and in order to do it effectually, I shall attempt, *tho' not confining myself to Heads*, to enquire into the mutual and absolute Necessity to both Nations of uniting, the mutual and equal Advantages to both Nations from a Union, the mutual and too equal Prejudices in both Nations against a Union, and reconcile, if possible, the mutual Difficulties of bringing it to pass; and in these Enquiries, or subsequent to them, shall make some Observations on the Easiness and Conditions of a Union.

Nothing is more plain to me, than the absolute and mutual Necessity of a Union to both Nations, and gives me some more than usual Hopes and Expectations from this present Treaty, that indeed the Necessity of Union is so obvious, that no Man that wishes well to both Nations, but must be convinc'd of this, which I lay down as the Foundation of my Discourse, **WE CAN NOT BE WITHOUT IT.**

I know, this Word will be carp'd at, and

cavilling Opposers will seek for such literal Advantages, *but I'll answer them as I go*; a Nation may properly and politically be said not to be able to do, *or to be without doing* a thing, which they cannot do *or be without doing*, with Security to the publick Peace, or in short any thing inconsistent with the Publick Safety, which is the Being and End of all Government.

And in this Respect I affirm, WE cannot be without this Union; and here again to avoid Cavil, I must explain my self, who I mean by this WE; and I answer, I mean equally *we Britains*, neither *English* nor *Scots*, can be any longer without it.

But since I am chiefly speaking to the *English*, I shall principally argue on our own side, not that I think the *Scots* do not want a Union; for every body will own fast enough they want it, but no body will believe we have any Occasion for it, and therefore I take our own side, as the People I am speaking to.

No wonder then, People are so indifferent in the Matter of a Union, while they think *they have no Occasion of it*; I shall therefore enquire here into the mutual Necessity, we are both under of this Union.

And 1<sup>st</sup>. I lay it down as a certain Maxim, that as we are circumstanc'd in Relation to Trade, Settlement, and Prosperity, Peace between the two Nations is absolutely necessary to us; not only the present Circumstance of a Time of War abroad consider'd, but at all other Times in order to publick Safety.

2<sup>dly</sup>. I lay it down as a like certain Maxim, that the End of our present Treaty must be a Union or a War; I can see no Medium, but what is most incompatible with the Safety of this Nation, and I think of both Nations.

I know, some People are fond of this War, and *the shortest Way with the Scots* has been often talk'd of with a great Deal of Pleasure.

I must do them this Justice, that *all that I ever heard say so*, were People who first did not understand what fighting with the Scots is; and 2<sup>dly</sup>. were such as would be sure never to go *themselves into the Field*.

But

But I shall not enter here into a Decision of a War, which I hope will never begin; for the present I shall content my self with one Scrap of Poetry more, and then proceed to the Case before me.

## PEACE and UNION.

Princes, when they invite a Land to Peace,  
Both seek and understand its Happiness;  
Peace is their Wisdom, Union is their Strength,  
*This* forms their Joy, *That* draws it out in length;  
Peace calms the Hearts, and Union joyns the Hands,  
The *first* invites, and then the *next* commands.  
'Tis Peace and Union, make a Nation thrive,  
Give Laws their Birth, and keep those Laws alive;  
Union's the Nation's Life, and Peace the Soul,  
Union preserves the Parts, and Peace the whole;  
'Tis Peace and Union that support the Throne,  
Union the Peoples Part, and Peace the Crown.  
When Bodies Politick seem Sick and Dead,  
Union revives the Members, Peace the Head;  
The Sisters always *hand in hand* proceed,  
Union to fortifie, and Peace to feed.  
No Nation can our Happiness invade,  
Union our Hearts secures, and Peace our Trade;  
Religion shares the Blessing these procure,  
*This* will Dissenters, *That* the Church secure;  
And Christian Graces in Conjunction move,  
Peace, Charity procures; and Union, Love.  
Union is Freedom joyn'd to Government,  
And Peace is Property in due Extent.  
In every Article the Blessing's seen,  
Union's a Parliament, and Peace the QUEEN:  
Where Peace and Union once a Land possels,  
*The Houses always Join, when they Address.*  
From the same Cause, to the same End they move,  
They aim at *Safety*, and commence in Love;  
The constituted Parts make up one whole,  
Different in Body, but the same in Soul.  
Union's your Lords and Commons hand in hand,  
Stating the steady Posture of the Land.

Peace